



# LIVING IN THE FAST LANE

Trance newcomer John O'Callaghan is set to go a little bit supernova with his latest release **WORDS** Mark Kavanagh

**T**rance star **John O'Callaghan's** superb debut album, *Something To Live For*, is released on January 29 on Discover, with a free bonus CD of club mixes and rarities.

The first single lifted from the album pairs 'Split Decision' (in three mixes) and 'Space & Time' (in at least two mixes), and the prolific producer is already working on his next project – a remix for **Paul van Dyk's** *Vandit* label.

Northern Irish duo, **Psycatron**, launch a new digital label of the same name in February. It's the first release from the pair – aka BBC Radio Ulster's *Across The Line* presenter **Paul Hamill** and former **Coast 2 Coast** member **Phil Johnston** – since their 2006 outing on Dutch DJ **Sander Kleinberg's** *Little Mountain* stamp.

The Belfast pair's digital debut couples the tough, tribal anthem 'Never Wake Up' (a firm favourite of **Deep Dish**, no less) with the dreamy, electro-infused house workout 'Forget Me' (which

features Phil on vocals).

The lads have also just launched a new club at Belfast venue *The Stiff Kitten*, entitled *Zoo*, which has ex-pat, **Fergie**, flying in for special guest duties on February 16 and mash-up merchant, **Erol Alkan**, doing the honours on February 23.

Irish hip-hop's finest, **Messiah J & The Expert**, unleash single number three from their *Choice Music Prize*-nominated album, *Now This I Have To Hear*, on February 16. The twosome will be promoting the infectious anthem, 'Place Your Bets', with a nationwide tour.

The first stop of their boogie bus is Whelan's, Dublin (January 27), to be followed by trips to Róisín Dubh, Galway (February 2), Savoy, Cork (3), Trinity Rooms, Limerick (16), McGarrigles, Sligo (17), Shooters, Wexford (23) and Bar Habano, Portlaoise (24).

All of this activity is followed by a British release for the album – which **Beats & Pieces** heartily

recommends – and March appearances at the South X South West Festival in Austin, Texas and CraicFest in New York.

Dublin hip-hop imprint, All City Records has just released the second EP from **Heralds Of Change**, aka **Mike Slott** from Dublin and **Hudson Mohawke** from Scotland (assisted by American acts, **Oddisee**, **Unknown** and **Mudd**).

'Sittin' on the Side' is a soulful hip-hop six-tracker, featuring the title track, 'Rock With You' and instrumentals of both, along with two more instrumental cuts, 'Collin' Shots' and 'Ridin' Chrome'.

Ireland's number one ambient label, Psychonavigation Records, is releasing a new album from the legendary Krautrock producer, **Hans-Joachim Roedelius** (**Cluster**) at the end of March. The album, entitled *Snapshots/Sidesteps* features collaborations between Roedelius and **The Orb**, **Patrick Pulsinger**, **Moebius** and **Haeyoung Kim**, among others.

Aspiring midlands breakbeat and electro producer **Johnny Pluse** has just released his 'Funky 5 EP' on *Invisible Agent*. Available as a digital download from [junodownload.com](http://junodownload.com), the assured collection includes a wet 'n' hard John Gibbons & Spooky remix of 'Johnny Pluse'.

Hard dance don **Karl Davis** has announced that the follow-up to the third release on his **Pure NRG** stamp (the newly-released double a-side featuring 'Rewind' by **Ben Stevens** and 'Listen Up' from **Defective Audio**) is due out at the start of March.

**Pure NRG 4** will feature the blistering **Dynamic Intervention** remix of **Karl Davis** tune, 'Technique', and the **Karl Davis** and **Dave Owens** collaboration, 'Proton'.

**The Prodigy** have set up their own label, **Ragged Flag**, through the UK independent label, **Cooking Vinyl**, with beatmaster **Liam Howlett** commenting: "We are looking forward to building our label up, starting off with the release of the new Prodigy album. We have recorded a few songs already for

this next album and they are sounding big and mean!"

Virtu Studios in Dublin launch a new four-week Thursday night course in Ableton live performance and production, starting on February 1. The cost is €240.00 and you can book your place by calling **Barry Dempsey** (086 8115415).

There will be no *Godskitchen* at the Point Theatre over the St Patrick's weekend as was anticipated, **HOTPRESS** has learned. However, **Paul van Dyk** has been confirmed to appear at *Tripad* on March 16 and tickets will be on sale soon.

Sources have revealed that the world's number DJ, according to the DJ Mag Top 100 DJs poll, will also be playing in Portrush on March 17 and Letterkenny on March 18.

Techno extravaganza *Electric Shock 9* runs on February 16 at TBMC in Dublin, with Berlin's **Ellen Allien**, The Hague's **I-F** and Electric City resident, **Barry Donovan**. Tickets (€22.50 plus booking fee) are now on sale.

Cork clubs *Kommunity* and *Inferno* team up to launch *Inferno Trance* at An Spailpin Fanac on February 9. Guests include **DJ Tek**, **Cheeky** and **Chris McArdle**.

Successful British author and DJ, **Bill Brewster**, kicks off a hectic February at *Space Camp* at *Rogue* on Saturday February 3. Fast rising Irish techno star *Dancepiz* is among the month's other guests, on February 24.

Lush! in Portrush has announced that its 11th birthday celebrations will run on Friday March 2 and Saturday March 3, with Dutch trance icon **Armin van Buuren** and progressive house star **Nic Fianucci** the respective guests. Admission to both parties is €12 (payable at the door).

The imminent 2FM schedule revamp means the end of **Conor G's** tenure and the welcome one-hour extension of **Mr Spring's** Saturday night show, which will now be broadcast from 10pm until 1am... **THE BEAT GOES ON!**